

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 117042
ORIGIN SCS-06

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DRAFTED BY SCS:RDBELT:GL
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EUR.NE-DDONCHI (SUBS)

-----046016 082252Z /70

O 082203Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL SEVILLE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 117042

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN ,CASC,GR RALPHS,SUSAN

SUBJECT:DISAPPEARANCE OF RALPHS, SUSAN

1. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT AN INVESTIGATION INTO MS. RALPH'S DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE ROYAL VIKING SKY BE CONDUCTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION BY THE GREEK AUTHORITIES IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF MS. RALPHS, HER FAMILY, THE SHIPPING LINE, AND THE NORWEGIAN AND US GOVTS.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD PROCEED WITH PLAN OUTLINED REFTTEL AND REQUEST CAPTAIN OLSEN TO REQUEST LOCAL INVESTIGATION WHEN SHIP REACHES PIREAUS. SUGGEST YOU KEEP THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMED OF OUR POSITION, AND BE PREPARED TO

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DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY REQUESTING THE INVESTIGATION IF THE CAPTAIN IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO DO SO. IN THIS REGARD, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY PLANS TO CONVENE A MARITIME BOARD OF INQUIRY AT PIRAEUS MAY 10. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN SUCH A HEARING BEING DONE IN A THOROUGH, IMPARTIAL AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER, WE BELIEVE THAT AN

ACCOMPANYING INVESTIGATION BY GREEK AUTHORITIES, WHO ARE TOTALLY NONINVOLVED, MIGHT PROVIDE FURTHER ASSURANCES AND COMFORT TO THE FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF MS. RALPHS.

3. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER THAT AMEMBASSY OSLO IS IN A POSITION TO RENDER, AS WELL AS ANY COMMENTS THEY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE. VANCE

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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